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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Kanji HATA et al.

Appl. No : 10/538,178 (U.S. National Stage of PCT/JP2003/015568)

I.A. Filed : December 4, 2003

For : TOOL EXCHANGE DEVICE AND TOOL

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office  
Customer Service Window, Mail Stop AMENDMENT  
Randolph Building  
401 Dulany Street  
Alexandria, VA 22314  
Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. §1.56 and §§1.97-1.98, Applicants hereby bring the following information to the attention of the Examiner in charge of the above-identified application, which includes information cited in the International Search Report that issued in connection with International Patent Application No. PCT/JP2003/015568, of which the present application is the U.S. National Stage Application. A copy of the International Search Report in English was enclosed with the papers when entering the U.S. National Stage on June 9, 2005. The Examiner is invited to review these materials to inspect the relevance indicated during the international examination with respect to the documents cited therein. The following is a list of the documents cited in the above-noted documents:

Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. HEI 3-109784, together with an

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English language Abstract of the same;

Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. SHO 56-28894, together with an English language Abstract of the same;

Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. 2000-24975, together with an English language Abstract of the same; and

Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. HEI 1-113399, together with an English language Abstract of the same.

Applicants also bring to the Examiner's attention the following document:

Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. 2001-191288, together with an English language Abstract of the same. Applicants note that this document is cited on page 1 of the specification of the present application.

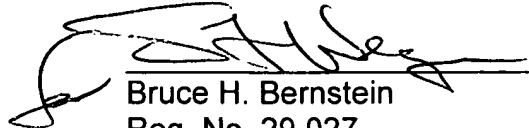
Copies of the above-noted documents are enclosed together with a duly completed Form PTO-1449. The Examiner is accordingly requested to consider each of these documents, and to make them of record in this application by initialing in the appropriate spaces on the Form PTO-1449. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner include a copy of the initialed Form PTO-1449 with the next communication from the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

Applicants note that an Office Action on the merits has not issued in the present application, and thus, no fee is believed necessary to ensure consideration of the submitted material.

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Should there be any questions, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kanji HATA et al.



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